

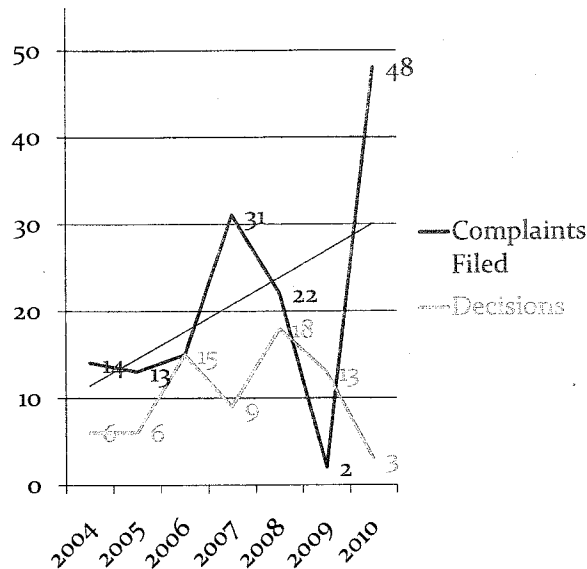
**LFD Issue -**

Consistently high legal costs

Both the number of complaints and the number of complex, time and labor intensive investigations have increased substantially since 2002.

*Formal complaints have increased nearly 375% from 5 years ago.*

Nationally and here in Montana, interest in campaign finance laws and adherence thereto has peaked. This is due in large part to the Citizens United ruling on a national level and subsequent lawsuit against Western Tradition Partnership.



## Current situation

- Docket of 57 pending complaints
  - 271% last year's load
  - Dating back to January, 2008
  - Dangerously close to statute of limitations
  - Significant complexity requiring retained counsel to legal analysis and application of precedent rulings
  - 4 major litigious involvements
    - Montana Republican Party v. Schweitzer
    - Western Tradition Partnership v. COPP and Bullock (WTP I)
    - Western Tradition Partnership v. COPP and Bullock (WTP II)
    - Montana Shrugged v. COPP, Bullock, and Paxinos
- 4 pending ethics complaints; all require Hearings Examiner involvement